the Indo-Bangladesh border during the last three years as given below show that Border Security Force is vigilant to check smuggling:—

Item	1996	1997	1998 (upto 30-11-1998)
Salt (Kg) . . .	1699625	3485377	1259904
Sugar (Kg) . . .	1567774	1771870	1215145
Rice (Kg) . . .	783102	56198	524744
Cloth (rupees) .	30824120	34735620	28266873

Crime committed by people living in slums/J.J. clusters

1926. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Police Commissioner of Delhi had stated in a press conference in the month of August that out of about 50 lakh people living in slums and J. J. clusters more than 20 lakh had been engaged in construction work and due to the slump in the construction work these people, particularly the youth, were indulging in various crimes and that is why the crime rate was increasing in the metropolis: and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Commissioner of Police, Delhi had stated that as a large number of slum dwellers in Delhi were engaged in construction work and there was a recession in this activity, the law and order situation had been affected adversely.

The steps taken by Delhi Police to maintain law and order in Delhi include intensification of patrolling especially between 6 P.M. and 10 P.M.; surveillance over the activities of known criminals; improved intelligence gathering; raids over the places of ill repute and suspected hideouts of criminals; and high visibility of police in the vulnerable areas.

Freeing the police force from excessive political control

1927. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked Government to consider constitution of a high level Independent Review Committee (IRC) to go into the recommendations of the Police Commission report as well as suggestions by the National Human Rights Commission to free the force from excessive political control; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on the directions of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court dated the 20th July, 1998, the Committee consti-